

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 RSR-01 /135 W

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R 190850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 403

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CANTHO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6751

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON ELECTION LAW

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 16 AND 17, SENATORS HONG DON DONG AND LE CHAU LOC GAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE STATUS OF THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BILL NOW UNDER INITIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE UPPER HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE. BOTH SENATORS ARE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE; DONG IS THE CHAIRMAN AND LOC SAID HE MAY BE THE COMMITTEE'S RAAPORTEUR FOR THE BILL.

PROBABLE COMMITTEE CHANGES

2. BOTH DONG AND LOC SAID THAT THE INTERIOR COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND CHANGES IN THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE BILL. SENATOR DONG BELIEVED THAT THREE PROVISIONS WERE PARTICULARLY
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OBNXIOUS TO THE SENATORS ON THE COMMITTEE: (A) THE PROVISION
REQUIRING SLATES TO BE RECOMMENDED BY POLITICAL PARTIES FULLY
QUALIFIED UNDER CURRENT LAW; (B) THE 15 MILLION PIASTER DEPOSIT
REQUIRED FROM EACH SLATE; (C) THE REQUIREMENT THAT EACH SLATE BE
COMPOSED OF 1

" MEMBERS, INSTEAD OF THE CUSTOMARY 10. DONG STRESSED
THAT THE FIRST OF THESE TOPICS, THE POLITICAL PARTY REQUIREMENT,
WAS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT. THE COMMITTEE HAD ASKED THE OPINION
OF THE UPPER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON THIS POINT AND HAD
RECEIVED

BACK A RECOMMENDATION THWU THE CLAUSES IN THE BILL REQUIRING
CANDIDATES TO JOIN POITICAL PARTIES AND REQUIRING SLATE ENDORSEMENTS
BY POLITICAL PARTIES BE ABOLISHED. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE THOUGH
THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS VIOLATED ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONSTITUION,
AND ALSO ARTICLE 23 TO THE EXTENT THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL WISHING

TO BE CANDIDATES ARE AFFECTED.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FILL IN THE UPPER HOUSE

3. SENATOR DONG HOPED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE READY FOR PLENARY
DEBATE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH OR AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY. HE
SEEMED HOPEFUL THAT THE UPPER HOUSE WOULD VOTE TO T CHANGE THE BILL
AS THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECOMMEND. NEITHER HE NOR SENATOR LOC
COULD
PREDICT WHAT THE LOWER HOUSE WOULD DO ON SECON- ROUND ACTION.
IN ANY CASE, SENATOR LOC POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL AMENDING
POWER PRESENTED A FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE.
BUNKER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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BIEN HOA
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